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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MPOL, NATO, PFOR, NAC

SUBJECT: NATO STANDARDIZATION - NOV 12 NAC DISCUSSIONS

REF: A. STATE 266238 DTG 110211Z NOV 75

B. USNATO 5772 DTG 231511Z OCT 75

C. USNATO 6040 DTG 061621Z NOV 75

D. USNATO 6091 DTG 071940Z NOV 75

E. USNATO 6043 DTG 061720Z NOV 75

F. STATE 176498 DTG 252330Z JUL 75

SUMMARY: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL (NAC) DEFERRED ESTABLISHMENT OF AD
HOC

COMMITTEE AND DISCUSSED RESULTS OF NOV 5 EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL
MEETING. EUROGROUP AMBASSADORS EMPHASIZED THAT EUROGROUP INITIATIVE
WAS NOT INTENDED TO DIMINISH NATO'S ROLE OR TO DUPLICATE ONGOING
ALLIANCE-WIDE STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO SYG
LUNS' PRODDING, AMB KILICK (UK) ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EUROGROUP WAS
SEEKING TO INVOLVE FRANCE IN AN EXPANDED EUROPEAN ENTITY CAPABLE
OF DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN POSITIONS FOR USE IN FUTURE
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DEALINGS ON ARMAMENTS MATTERS. TINE (FRANCE) SUPPORTED DE
STAERCKE (BELGIUM) IN OBJECTING TO NAC FORMING AD HOC COMMITTEE
AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OTHER FACTORS INCLUDING EUROGROUP INITIATIVE
NOW REQUIRED CONSIDERATION. AS A RESULT, NAC PROBABLY WILL MEET

AGAIN ON STANDARDIZATION IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO CONSIDER REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AD HOC COMMITTEE TO BE DRAFTED BY ASYG TUCKER. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT EFFORTS TO DRAW FRANCE INTO GREATER EUROPEAN ROLE WILL FURTHER DELAY US EFFORTS TO IMPROVE NATO STANDARDIZATION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, SYG LUNS NOTED THAT PREVIOUS NAC MEETINGS SEEMED TO SHOW CONSENSUS THAT ALLIES NEEDED TO IMPROVE STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF NATO FORCES, SHARE BURDENS AND BENEFITS IN DEFENSE-RELATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND REACH AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS; THAT MINISTERS SHOULD ADDRESS STANDARDIZATION AND PROCUREMENT ISSUES IN DECEMBER TO CLEAR WAY FOR MINISTERIAL DECISIONS AT THE SPRING 1976 MEETINGS; AND THAT PERMREPS SHOULD FORM AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ASSIST THEIR STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH PERMREPS HAD AGREED ON USEFULNESS OF AD HOC COMMITTEE, SOME WISHED TO DELAY ITS FORMATION PENDING FURTHER COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ON ITS TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. OTHERS WANTED ADDITIONAL TIME TO CONSIDER RECENT WORK BY THE CNAD, EUROGROUP AND MILITARY COMMITTEE.

2. CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SIR PETER HILL-NORTON SAID MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) HAD ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE TWO STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH CALLED FOR A "CYCLICAL APPROACH" TO ALLIANCE ARMAMENTS PLANNING AND FOR PERSONNEL "REDEPLOYMENTS" AMONG NATO HEADQUARTERS MILITARY STAFF TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PLANNING MORE EFFECTIVELY. HE SAID THAT THESE PERSONNEL CHANGES WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT REQUIRE MORE PEOPLE AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MC WOULD RESOLVE REMAINING "MINOR PROBLEMS" WITH RECOMMENDATIONS DURING NOV 13 MEETING. HILL-NORTON SAID ACTIVE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN CYCLICAL ARMAMENTS PLANNING PROCEDURES WHICH MC IS CONSIDERING WOULD BE "HIGHLY DESIRABLE" AND THAT ONGOING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THIS MATTER ARE "ENCOURAGING". CITING RECENT EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES, HE SAID THAT PROPOSED AD HOC COMMITTEE SHOULD CAREFULLY STUDY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EUROGROUP AND COUNCIL TO ENSURE THEY WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROCEEDING ALONG THE SAME LINE--NOT PARALLEL LINES.

3. ASYG TUCKER (DEFENSE SUPPORT DIVISION) SAID THAT, DURING OCT 28-30 MEETING, CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS (CNAD) HAD: A) WELCOMED COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION, PARTICULARLY POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS; B) EXPRESSED VIEW THAT FURTHER COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF STANDARDIZATION PRINCIPLES SHOULD PRECEDE IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDIZATION MEASURES; C) WELCOMED FORMATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL; AND D) EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. TUCKER SAID CNAD WOULD AGAIN REVIEW PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION DURING NEXT APRIL MEETING AND PRESENT ITS VIEWS AT THAT TIME.

4. THEODOROPOULOS (GREECE), SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE OF THE EUROGROUP PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, READ A STATEMENT CONCERNING THE NOV 5 EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH SET FORTH, IN MORE GENERAL TERMS, WHAT WE LEARNED FROM KILICK (UK) ON NOV 7 (REF D). TEXT OF PREPARED STATEMENT IS QUOTED IN PARA 20, BELOW. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, THEODOROPOULOS SAID THAT EUROGROUP MINISTERS, DURING NOV 5 MEETING, HAD DIFFICULT TASK OF BALANCING THREE "ELEMENTS": A) NEED TO GIVE IMPETUS TO ONGOING AND FUTURE EUROGROUP EFFORTS; B) NEED TO EXPAND ARMAMENTS COOPERATION FROM EUROGROUP TO EUROPEAN-WIDE BASIS; AND C) NEED TO REMAIN WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ALLIANCE EFFORTS. IN THEODOROPOULOS' VIEW, EUROGROUP MINISTERS HAD PERFORMED THIS TASK WELL, BUT THEY HAD PERFORCE LEFT SOME RECOMMENDATIONS VAGUE TO ALLOW FLEXIBILITY FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS.

5. IN REPLY TO THEODOROPOULOS' REMARKS, LUNS DREW SPECIAL ATTENTION TO EUROGROUP'S STATED AIM TO INCREASE THE INTER-OPERABILITY AND STANDARDIZATION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE AND SUPPORTED HILL-NORTON'S REMARKS TO THE SAME EFFECT. LUNS NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF ALLIANCE BODIES ARE ALREADY WORKING TO FURTHER THESE SAME GOALS AND SUGGESTED THE NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION OF THEIR ACITIVITIES, BOTH AMONG THEMSELVES AND NOW WITH EUROGROUP'S EFFORTS. HE URGED THE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE NOW SO THAT IT COULD DEVELOP OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES AND, FINALLY, A PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THEM.
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6. AFTER THANKING OTHERS FOR THEIR REMARKS, DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) NOTED THAT MINISTERS WILL MEET TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES IN ONLY A FEW WEEKS. HE CAUTIONED THAT THE COUNCIL COULD DAMAGE ITS "FRAGILE FLOWER" BY TOO MUCH TALK ABOUT AN AD HOC COMMITTEE NOW WHEN, HE BELIEVED, THE COUNCIL CANNOT GO ANY FURTHER UNTIL THE WAY IS MORE CLEAR. DE STAERCKE URGED THAT THE COUNCIL SET ASIDE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FORMING THIS COMMITTEE UNTIL OTHER FACTORS BECOME CLARIFIED. HE THEN REFERRED TO THE "US HOPES FOR IMPROVEMENT ON THE TWO-WAY STREET", AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S SUCCESSOR WOULD SUPPORT THIS OBJECTIVE AS WELL. RETURNING TO THE FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, DE STAERCKE HOPED LUNS WOULD PREPARE A DRAFT REPORT TO MINISTERS WHICH WOULD GIVE FULL AND FAIR TREATMENT TO THE WORK OF THE EUROGROUP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ALLIANCE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY FROM LUNS ON REASONS FOR DELAY, AND FOR SETTING UP A SEPARATE EUROPEAN GROUP, DE STAERCKE AGAIN STATED HE WAS CONCERNED THAT "THIS FRAGILE FLOWER WILL NOT BLOSSOM" IF THE COUNCIL MOVES TOO FAST IN THIS PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY. LUNS REMARKED THAT, AS THE COUNCIL CONSISTED OF THIRTEEN EUROPEAN MEMBERS AND ONLY
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TWO FROM OUTSIDE EUROPE, HE SAW SOME SORT OF ORGANIZED EUROPEAN APPROACH COMING ALONG IN ANY CASE.

7. CITING COMMUNIQUE FROM NOV 5 EUROGROUP MEETING (REF E) AND CONSULTATIONS WITH EUROGROUP MEMBERS, AMB MENZIES (CANADA) SAID EUROGROUP SEEMED TO HAVE TWO PURPOSES: A) IMPROVE STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF ARMAMENTS IN ALLIANCE AND B) MAINTAIN VIABILITY OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE PRODUCTION CAPABILITY. HE SAID CANADA SUPPORTED THESE OBJECTIVES AS WELL AS NEED FOR REDUCTION OF NARROW NATIONAL AIMS. MENZIES SAID EUROGROUP EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ADVANCE INFORMATION ON EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS REQUIREMENTS AND MC EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A CYCLICAL APPROACH TO ARMAMENTS PLANNING SHOULD ENCOMPASS ALL REPEAT ALL ALLIES. HE WELCOMED EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO INCREASE COOPERATION IN RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION, BUT CAUTIONED AGAINST LIMITING THIS COOPERATION TO EUROPE AND EMPHASIZED CANADA'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE CURRENT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH ALLIES ON THESE AREAS. MENZIES SAID HE WAS NOT YET PREPARED TO COMMENT ON EUROGROUP FORMATION OF A PROCUREMENT SECRETARIAT, BUT NOTED A "CERTAIN APPREHENSION" IN CANADA ABOUT A "TWO-PILLAR" APPROACH TO THE ALLIANCE. HE CAUTIONED AGAINST ALLIES PERCEIVING THE "TWO-WAY STREET" AS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US TO NEGLECT OF CANADA AND CLOSED BY REPEATING CANADA'S DESIRE THAT STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS IMPROVE DETERRENCE AND DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE.

8. CONCERNING CONTINUITY OF US POLICY, TO WHICH DE STAERCKE HAD ADVERTED, CHARGE DREW FROM REF F AND QUOTED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AT THE RECENT NATO SUMMIT WHICH ESTABLISHED THE BASIC US POSITION ON STANDARDIZATION. CHARGE (AS REFLECTED IN TEXT IN PARA 21, BELOW) THEN PRESSED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (REF A) AND PROVIDED A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO THE EUROGROUP BRIEFING, POINTING OUT THAT THE US HOPES THIS EFFORT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO RATIONALIZATION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES (PARA 7B, REF F) AND TO COST-EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO ALLIANCE-WIDE STANDARDIZATION.

9. NOTING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHARGE'S REMARKS AND DE STAERCKE'S BELIEF THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO ESTABLISH AN AD CONFIDENTIAL

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HOC COMMITTEE, LUNS ASKED IF OTHERS WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT. KILLICK REFERRED TO HILL-NORTON'S EARLIER STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE INPUTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING EUROGROUP. KILLICK EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE EUROGROUP, BUT A BROADER, INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN GROUPING WHICH WOULD, HE OBSERVED, BE OF GREATER VALUE. KILLICK ALSO NOTED THAT SOME MAY THINK THAT THE EUROPEANS, IN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT SECRETARIAT, WOULD DIMINISH THE ROLE OF ASYG (DEFENSE SUPPORT) TUCKER. HE POINTED OUT THAT EUROPE HAS NO MACHINERY NOW TO ADDRESS ARMAMENTS ISSUES, THAT SUCH MACHINERY IS NEEDED, BUT THAT NO DUPLICATION OR DIMINUTION OF TUCKER'S WORK IS INTENDED. TURNING TO US CHARGE'S STATEMENT, KILLICK AGREED WITH THE US VIEWS ABOUT THE NAC'S LIMITED CAPACITY FOR DEALING WITH DETAILS OF PRINCIPLES. HE THOUGHT THAT PERMREPS SHOULD FORM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE SOON, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TODAY, AND BELIEVED THAT THE COMMITTEE COULD BEGIN WORK EVEN IF THE COUNCIL WISHED TO DISCUSS BROAD ASPECTS OF PRINCIPLES AT THE SAME TIME.

10. SYG LUNS ASKED WHAT "BROADER, INDEPENDENT GROUPING" MEANT. KILLICK REPLIED THAT HE HOPED ALL EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE WOULD MEET IN AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION TO DEVELOP EUROPEAN POSITIONS FOR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER. LUNS ASKED IF THIS MEANT A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION OF THIRTEEN. KILLICK REPLIED "YES".

11. MENZIES THEN REITERATED CANADA'S VIEWS ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. HE STATED THAT CANADA FAVORS EARLY ESTABLISHMENT IN VIEW OF THE GREAT AMOUNT OF WORK TO BE DONE. MENZIES URGED THE COUNCIL TO FORM THIS COMMITTEE SOON, CERTAINLY BEFORE THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETINGS.

12. LUNS AGAIN RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION, OBSERVING THAT "EUROPEAN MEMBERS CAN MEET IN

THIS HOUSE" AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FROM HERE. COMMENT: LUNS MAY HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING CONCERN AT THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION BEING LOCATED ELSEWHERE, SUCH AS PARIS. THIS SQUARES WITH A SIMILAR REFERENCE BY KILLICK ON NOV 7 (PARA 8, REF D). END COMMENT.

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13. DE STAERCKE SAID STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS BY EUROPEANS WERE IN "PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY" AND THAT COUNCIL SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO "PRE-DEFINE" OUTCOMES. APPARENTLY REFERRING TO PROGRAM GROUP (REF D), HE SAID QUESTIONS SUCH AS ITS OPERATING LOCATION WERE DIFFICULT AND HADNOT BEEN DECIDED. DE STAERCKE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT UNLESS THE EUROPEAN "PILLAR" INCLUDED FRANCE, THE "TWO-WAY STREET" WOULD BE COMPROMISED. SYG LUNS ASKED DE STAERCKE IF HE PREFERRED TO DELAY FORMATION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE SO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FRANCE, WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO "THINK THINGS OVER". DE STAERCKE SAID HE COULD AGREE TO FORMATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY, BUT HESITATED TO DO SO BECAUSE HE FEARED IT WOULD PRODUCE "DISSENT" AT A TIME WHEN "CONSENSUS" APPEARED NEAR. SYG LUNS RESPONDED THAT "OPEN-ENDED" AD HOC COMMITTEE WOULD "LEAVE DOOR OPEN" TO ALL POSSIBILITIES AND SUGGESTED THAT ASYG TUCKER, IN DRAFTING "GUIDANCE", WOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT.

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14. RECOGNIZING SOME MOVEMENT TOWARD CONSENSUS ON EARLY

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, US CHARGE NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE A GREAT AMOUNT OF "BRUSH CLEARING" TO ACCOMPLISH WHICH COULD BE DONE WITHOUT HAVING TO DECIDE IMMEDIATELY ON THE MAIN ISSUES. INSTEAD, EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD PERMIT PROGRESS SOON ON PRELIMINARY ASPECTS.

15. TINE (FRANCE) DELIVERED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A "MAIDEN SPEECH" IN THE COUNCIL WHICH HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO MAKE, BECAUSE HE WAS WITHOUT PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS. HOWEVER, NOTING THAT VARIOUS SPEAKERS HAD SPOKEN OF URGENCY IN SETTING UP AN AD HOC COMMITTEE, HE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT DISCUSSION HAD BECOME OVERLY HASTY. TINE SAID HE OBJECTED TO THE COUNCIL'S FORMING THIS COMMITTEE AT THIS TIME. AS HIS PREDECESSOR, AMB DE ROSE, HAD SAID, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FRANCE WOULD APPROVE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE FIFTEEN. BUT IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE COUNCIL COULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE. FRANCE CANNOT CONTRIBUTE TO THESE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE THE ISSUE OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE TO BEWEIGHED WITH GREAT CARE.

16 IN SUMMING UP COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS, LUNS NOTED THAT MEETING IN THIS FORUM "PROVED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO FRANCE'S PARTICIPATION IN ALLIANCE EFFORTS". OTHERWISE, THE DPC WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS. NEVERTHELESS, LUNS STATED THAT HE DID NOT DESIRE TO SEE THE COUNCIL ORIENT ITSELF IN A WAY WHICH COULD PREJUDICE THE INTERESTS OF ANY ALLY. THEREFORE HE ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF WAITING FOR A WEEK OR TWO, DURING WHICH TIME TUCKER WOULD DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE IN LIGHT OF COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS TO DATE.

17 COMMENT: THIS MEETING PLACED IN SHARPER FOCUS THE DIFFERENT POSITIONS ADVANCED BY DE STAERCKE AND TINE ON ONE HAND, AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IMMEDIATE FORMATION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE OTHER. WE BELIEVE THAT TINE CAME TO DE STAERCKE'S AID (PROBABLY BY PRE-ARRANGEMENT) WHEN THE CURRENT WAS CLEARLY RUNNING AGAINST DE STAERCKE. ALTHOUGH FRANCE MAY HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO SUPPORT FORMING THE AD HOC COMMITTEE A FEW WEEKS AGO, DE STAERCKE'S DELAYING TACTICS, IN OUR VIEW, HAVE SUCCEEDED IN LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR FRANCE TO MAKE WHAT HE CONSIDERS A MORE IMPORTANT AND FAR-REACHING DECISION TO JOIN A EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR DEALING WITH ARMAMENTS MATTERS. DE STAERCKE PROBABLY BELIEVES THAT THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY NAC EFFORTS, AND ITS AD HOC COMMITTEE, WILL REMAIN OPEN MUCH LONGER THAN THE MORE PERISHABLE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING FRANCE MORE INTO THE EUROPEAN FOLD.

18. IN ANY CASE, THESE MANIPULATIONS HAVE FRUSTRATED OUR INITIATIVE FOR TWO MONTHS. THIS LOST TIME, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF BI-POLARIZATION ARISING FROM THE EUROGROUP INITIATIVE, COULD EFFECT PROSPECTS FOR MEANINGFUL MINISTERIAL DECISIONS IN THE SPRING OF

1976 IN SUPPORT OF OUR BASIC OBJECTIVE OF INCREASING DETERRENCE THROUGH IMPROVEMENT IN MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS. IF BELGIUM AND FRANCE CONTINUE TO DELAY UNTIL THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT SECRETARIAT AND THE PROGRAM GROUP ARE PREPARED, AS WELL THEY MIGHT, THEY MAY NOT BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT NAC WORK UNTIL AFTER DEC 8 WHEN THOSE TOR WILL GO TO EUROGROUP MINISTERS AND THEN, WE WOULD EXPECT, TO FRANCE.

19. AS FOR THE NEXT STEP IN NATO, WE EXPECT TUCKER WILL DRAFT AND
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CIRCULATE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT NAC MEETING, WHICH SHOULD BE IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. HE MAY HOLD ONE OR MORE INFORMAL MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM KEY DELEGATIONS TO TRY TO SMOOTH THE WAY IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT NAC MEETING. END COMMENT.

20. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY AMB THEODOROPOULOS, SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE, EUROGROUP PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES: BEGIN TEXT:

1. MR CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW UP MY STATEMENT AT THE COUNCIL ON 22 OCTOBER WITH A FURTHER STATEMENT, AGAIN ON BEHALF OF THE EUROGROUP AND IN MY CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN PROTEMPORE OF THE EUROGROUP PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, REGARDING THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING OF THE EUROGROUP IN SPECIAL MINISTERIAL SESSION IN THE HAGUE LAST WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER.

2. YOU WILL, OF COURSE,ALREADY HAVE SEEN THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS ISSUED AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, THOUGH I SHALL FOR CONVENIENCE ATTACH A COPY OF IT TO THE TEXT OF THESE REMARKS WHICH WILL BE CIRCULATED AFTER OUR DISCUSSION. FURTHER, YOU YOURSELF MR CHAIRMAN, AND THE NON-EUROGROUP MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE HAVE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NORMAL PRACTICE, BEEN GIVEN A FULL ORAL ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE HAGUE. NEVERTHELESS, FOLLOWING ON OUR EARLIER DISCUSSIONS IN THE COUNCIL ON THIS SUBJECT AND IN VIEW OF ITS VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE WHOLE ALLIANCE, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF A SHORT STATEMENT WAS MADE ON THE RECORD HERE TODAY.

3. MR CHAIRMAN, THE MINISTERIAL MEETING LAST WEEK WAS A MOST INTERESTING AND CONSTRUCTIVE OCCASION, DURING WHICH MINISTERS TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE OF ASPECTS OF THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT IN CONSIDERABLE DEPTH. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE AND WILL PROVE TO BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO THE WHOLE ALLIANCE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.

4. THE MAIN DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING CENTRED ROUND A REPORT PREPARED FOR MINISTERS BY A SPECIAL WORKING PARTY UNDER THE AEGIS OF THEIR NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS. MINISTERS WERE ABLE, AFTER DISCUSSION, TO ACCEPT MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS REPORT, AND OUR TASK IN THE MONTHS AHEAD WILL NOW BE TO PUT THESE

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RECOMMENDATIONS INTO PRACTICE. MANY OF THEM ARE DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE FUTURE WORK ON STANDARDISATION IN THE FORUM OF THE HAC; AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTION.

5. THE FIRST MAIN GROUP OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN INTER-EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN THE DEFENCE EQUIPMENT FIELD WITH TWO MAIN AIMS: TO INCREASE THE INTEROPERABILITY AND STANDARDISATION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE; AND TO MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE AND WELL-DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL BASE IN EUROPE IN THE DEFENCE FIELD. THEY AGREED THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR EUROPEAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF ITS OPERATIONS AND TO BECOME MORE COST-EFFECTIVE. MINISTERS ALSO SET A NUMBER OF STUDIES IN HAND TO INCREASE STANDARDISATION IN SPECIFIC AREAS - INCLUDING MAJOR EQUIPMENTS AND WEAPON SYSTEMS, ASSEMBLIES AND COMPONENTS AND INTERNALLY-STANDARDISED PARTS.

6. MINISTERS THEN DISCUSSED THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A MORE EQUITABLE BALANCE OF DEFENCE EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE. THE MEETING AGREED THAT SUCH ATLANTIC CO-OPERATION WOULD NOT ONLY INCREASE STANDARDISATION AND REDUCE DUPLICATION BUT WOULD ALSO PROMOTE INTER-DEPENDENCE AND COHESION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. MINISTERS ACCORDINGLY AGREED TO HARMONISE THE APPROACH OF THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO TAKE UP WITH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA THE PROPOSAL TO OPEN THE DIALOGUE; THIS WOULD HAVE THE AIM OF DEVELOPING DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR INCREASING TRANSATLANTIC CO-OPERATION AND THE RECIPROCAL PURCHASING OF DEFENCE EQUIPMENT. THE ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS WILL BE MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SET THIS WORK IN HAND.

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7. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FURTHERING INTER-EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION IN DEFENCE PROCUREMENT. THE STARTING POINT FOR THIS DISCUSSION WAS THE GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG ALL PRESENT THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN THE MACHINERY AVAILABLE IN THIS FIELD IN ORDER TO ENABLE EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION TO BE EXTENDED AND TO HARMONISE AND CO-ORDINATE A COMMON EUROPEAN INTEREST.

8. MINISTERS AGREED THAT IT WAS VERY DESIRABLE THAT THIS EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE WIDEST POSSIBLE BASIS, AND IT WAS TO THIS END THAT, AS THE COMMUNIQUE SAYS, "THEY DECIDED TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE POTENTIAL FOR EXTENDING CO-OPERATION IN EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS COLLABORATION IN AN INDEPENDENT FORUM OPEN TO ALL EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE." WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING SUCH A FORUM, TO WHICH WE ATTACH THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE. MINISTERS ALSO DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH A SMALL EUROPEAN DEFENCE PROCUREMENT SECRETARIAT, THE DETAILS OF WHICH ARE STILL TO BE WORKED OUT. THIRDLY, MINISTERS ASKED FOR A STUDY TO BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT COMMITMENT INTO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TASKS AND MANDATE WHICH A MORE EXTENSIVE BODY, SUCH AS A EUROPEAN DEFENCE PROCUREMENT ORGANISATION, MIGHT ASSUME IN THE LONGER TERM.

9. FINALLY, MR CHAIRMAN, MINISTERS HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON HOW BEST TO HARMONISE THEIR FUTURE WORK ON THIS SUBJECT WITH THE WORK BEING CARRIED OUT UNDER THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. THEY EMPHASIZED HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS NOT TO DUPLICATE EFFORT, AND THEY ASKED US, IN OUR CAPACITY AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE NAC, TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL IS KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF THEIR DELIBERATIONS. MINISTERS ALSO STRESSED THAT IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE ALLIANCE TO DEVELOP WITHIN THE ALLIANCE FRAMEWORK (AND I STRESS THIS LAST POINT) AS CO-ORDINATED A EUROPEAN APPROACH AS POSSIBLE TO ALL ASPECTS OF THIS SUBJECT. OUR MEETING LAST WEEK WAS, IN OUR VIEW, A MAJOR STEP ON THE ROAD TO ATTAINING SUCH CO-ORDINATION, AND I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT WE SHALL NOW BE ABLE TO BUILD ON IT FOR THE BENEFIT OF US ALL. END TEXT.

21. BEGIN TEXT OF CHARGE'S STATEMENT (PARA 8, ABOVE):

THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT, IF THE ALLIANCE

IS TO PROGRESS IN IMPROVING STANDARDIZATION AND COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS PROCUREMENT, IT MUST REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ON THREE MAIN ISSUES: FIRST, THE BROAD GOALS OF STANDARDIZATION; SECOND, THE LIMITING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FACTORS; AND THIRD, THE MAJOR PROBLEMS WE FACE WITH REGARD TO METHODS AND PROCEDURES. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE ASPECTS CAN BEST BE ADDRESSED BY AN AD HOC COMMITTEE WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WILL BENEFIT FROM POLITICAL GUIDANCE ARISING FROM COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE COUNCIL ITSELF WILL BE IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS THESE MATTERS IN THE COMPLEX DETAIL REQUIRED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEANINGFUL PRINCIPLES AND AN IMPLEMENTING PLAN OF ACTION FOR MINISTERS TO ENDORSE AT THE SPRING 1976 MEETINGS. FOR THIS REASON, WE URGE THAT THE COUNCIL FORM AN "AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STANDARDIZATION AND PROCUREMENT OF ARMAMENTS" AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE ARE GRATEFUL, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR AMBASSADOR THEODOROPOULOS' REPORT ON EUROPGROUP'S MEETING IN THE HAGUE AND THE IMPORTANT CONFIDENTIAL

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DECISIONS TAKEN AT THAT MEETING. MY AUTHORITIES HOWEVER, HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO STUDY REPORTS OF THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 5 MEETING IN DETAIL, AND THUS HAS NOT DEVELOPED A CONSIDERED REACTION AS YET. MOREOVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE WORK OF THE EUROPGROUP IN THIS AREAS IS NACENT, AND WILL BE EVOLVING IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. WE ALL WILL BE FOLLOWING THAT EVOLUTION VERY CLOSELY, IN THE HOPE THAT IT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO RATIONALIZING EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AND TO COST-EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO ALLIANCE-WIDE STANDARDIZATION. IN THE MEANTIME, WE BELIEVE THE ALLIES SHOULD MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, WITH THE FORMATION IN NATO OF A BROADLY MANDATED AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STANDARDIZATION THAT WOULD TAKE DUE ACCOUNT OF THE EUROPGROUP'S EFFORTS IN THE EUROPGROUP AND ELSEWHERE. END TEXT.STREATOR

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